most of the eight species mentioned as coastal are rather restricted in their distribution in the Indian Ocean area but *H. flaviventris* is found from the Bay of Bengal to the coast of Tanzania.

It is probable that the eggs and nymphs described belong to *H. flaviventris* as *H. micans* is considered to be an oceanic species.

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17. BUTTRESS-LIKE STRUCTURES ON THE UPPER PART OF THE TRUNK OF *CEIBA PENTANDRA* (L.) GAERTN.

(*With a plate*)

The White Silk Cotton tree, *Ceiba pentandra* (Syn. *Eriodendron anfractuosum* DC.) is well known for its basal buttresses (Plate).

The object of the present note is to point out the occurrence of wing-like structures resembling buttresses in the angles between the branches and the main trunk, observed in two large specimens of *C. pentandra*, one growing in the Botanical Garden and the other in a private garden in Pondicherry. Buttress-like structures are also observed on the main trunk, having no connections either with the branches or the true buttresses. In smaller trees a tendency towards formation of such structures on the trunk is noted though they are not well formed. The only other tree for which this phenomenon is observed is a Burseraceae, *Canarium commune* L. (Richards 1957).

Buttresses are defined as the supporting roots arising above the ground level and growing downwards and outwards into the ground (Lloyd 1950). Richards (l.c.) defines them as the flat, triangular plates sub-

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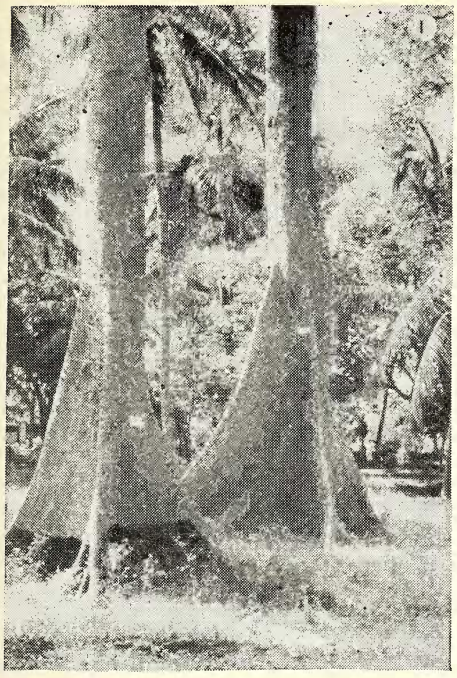

Photos. 1 : Normal buttresses in *Ceiba pentandra* ; 2 : Wing-like structures resembling buttresses (marked with ×) in the axils of the larger branches and on the main trunk ; 3 : Enlargement of the lowermost 'buttress' on the main trunk noted in photo 2 ; 4 : Closer view of the buttress-like structures (marked ×) in the angles between the branches and the trunk, and on the trunk.